

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UN, WA, XA, XM, MARR, MX

SUBJECT: MAYNES-GONZALEZ GALVEZ DISCUSSION OF UN ISSUES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 23 MEETING, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES AND MEXICAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GONZALEZ GALVEZ (G.G.) REVIEWED A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING MEXICAN PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, NAMIBIA, UN CHARTER REVIEW, US AFRICAN POLICY, PROBLEMS OF OVERVIEW MECHANISM, AND PROPOSED CONVENTION ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. WITH REFERENCE TO QUESTION OF UN CHARTER REVIEW, USUN SHOULD EXPECT APPROACH SHORTLY FROM MEXICAN MISSION CONCERNING A POSSIBLE EFFORT TO UNDERTAKE REVIEW
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OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDAS (SEE PARAS 4 AND 5 BELOW). END SUMMARY.

2. PEACEKEEPING: MAYNES OPENED DISCUSSION OF PEACE-KEEPING WITH EXPRESSION OF REGRET THAT MEXICO HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL AND NOTED THAT POSSIBLE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA MIGHT WELL REQUIRE LATIN AMERICAN TROOP CONTRIBUTION. G.G. REVIEWED REASONS WHY MEXICO HAD DECIDED NOT TO

PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL, CITING ALLEGED VAGUENESS OF MANDATE

AND, MORE CRITICALLY, NEED FOR APPROVAL OF MEXICAN SENATE IF MEXICO WERE TO MAKE ANY TROOP CONTRIBUTION. ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, GONZALEZ GALVEZ NOTED LACK OF US-USSR CONSENSUS ON FINANCING AND COMMAND OF TROOPS AS REASONS WHY MEXICO WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PARTICIPATION. MAYNES POINTED OUT THAT THE CONTINUED US-USSR DISPUTES ON THESE POINTS WERE MORE THEORETICAL THAN PRACTICAL. IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTION REGARDING POSSIBLE MEXICAN CONTRIBUTION TO NAMIBIA PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, G.G. SAID MEXICAN CONTRIBUTION WAS UNLIKELY, NO MATTER HOW GOOD THE CAUSE. MEXICAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE CIVILIAN UN PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA WAS ANOTHER MATTER, ACCORDING TO G.G., AND HE ALSO SAID THAT MEXICO MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE POLICE OFFICIALS FOR THIS PURPOSE. G.G. ALSO SAID LA'S GENERALLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACEKEEPING BECAUSE SOME YEARS AGO COLOMBIAN UNEF CONTINGENT RETURNED HOME "INFECTED" THROUGH CONTACTS WITH OTHER UNITS.

3. NAMIBIA: REFERRING TO G.G.'S RATHER NEGATIVE RESPONSE (MEXICO 6978) AT TIME OF PRESENTATION OF
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WESTERN PROPOSAL, MAYNES NOTED THAT THE SPECIFIC DOUBTS WHICH G.G. EXPRESSED AT THAT TIME HAD NOW BEEN LARGELY RESOLVED. G.G. EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT SOLUTION TO NAMIBIA PROBLEM SEEMED NEARER BUT AGAIN RAISED ISSUE OF APPARENT EXCLUSION OF UN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA FROM THIS PROCESS. MAYNES POINTED OUT THAT POSSIBLE SELECTION OF UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISAARI AS UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE COULD PROVIDE INFORMAL LINK WITH COUNCIL. G.G. SEEMED MOLIFIED.

4. CHARTER REVIEW: G.G. ASKED WHETHER THE US WAS IN A POSITION TO RESPOND FORMALLY TO MEXICAN PROPOSALS ADVANCED DURING RECENT MEETING OF CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE. MAYNES REPLIED THAT WE FOUND MANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN MEXICAN PROPOSALS, SPECIFICALLY CITING MEXICAN IDEA OF PUTTING TWO-YEAR TIME LIMIT ON UN AGENDA ITEMS. MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT THIS COULD APPLY TO SECURITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE NOTED AN AGREEMENT TO PLACE SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT ON AGENDA ITEM AFTER WHICH IT WOULD BE DROPPED IF THERE WERE NO DISCUSSION, COULD MEAN THAT AGENDAS WOULD CEASE TO BE POLITICAL ISSUES THEMSELVES. G.G. SAID THAT UK SUPPORTED IDEA OF CLEANING UP AGENDAS AND ASKED WHETHER US WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN WITH MEXICANS AND OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SOVIET UNION, TO DISCUSS

WHICH ITEMS COULD BE REMOVED. MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DISCUSS THIS IN TERMS OF A

GENERAL PRINCIPLE RATHER THAN TO REVIEW INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS. G.G. AND MAYNES AGREED THAT OUR TWO UN MISSIONS WOULD BE IN TOUCH ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. FOR USUN: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT MEXICAN IDEA OF A SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT FOR AGENDA ITEMS HAS MERIT. IF APPROACHED BY MEXICAN MISSION, YOU SHOULD TAKE PART IN WHATEVER DISCUSSIONS MEXICANS SEEK TO ORGANIZE AND
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SUPPORT THEIR PROPOSAL.

6. IN DISCUSSING QUESTION OF CHARTER REVIEW, G.G. SAID THERE WERE THREE GROUPS OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED. THE FIRST GROUP, IN WHICH HE PLACED JAPAN, INDIA AND BRAZIL, APPROACHED SUBJECT IN TERMS OF NATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. THE SECOND GROUP, WHICH HE SAID NUMBERED ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE COUNTRIES, WAS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE ORGANIZATION. THE THIRD, AND MOST NUMEROUS GROUP - "YOU ARE A MEMBER FROM TIME TO TIME" - WAS ESSENTIALLY INTERESTED IN BLOCKING ANY CHANGE IN EXISTING SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, G.G. MENTIONED PROBLEM OF SECURITY COUNCIL VETO, WHICH HE SAID WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL AND COULD NOT BE ABOLISHED BUT WHICH COULD PERHAPS BE SUBJECT TO SOME LIMITATIONS ON AREAS OF USE. MAYNES NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REFORM PACKAGE MENTIONED SOME VOLUNTARY LIMITATIONS ON THE VETO, THAT THE UK HAD BEEN RELATIVELY POSITIVE ON UN REFORM BUT THAT FRANCE WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE STATUS QUO, REFLECTING THE SCARS OF FRANCE'S PAST EXPERIENCE WITH THE UN OVER ALGERIA. THE SOVIETS WERE ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSED. G.G. SAID THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH BREZHNEV ONLY TO FIND THAT SOVIETS WERE COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO ANY RESTRICTIONS ON VETO AND TO CHANGES IN CHARTER IN GENERAL. THE SOVIETS REPORTEDLY TOLD MEXICANS THAT EVERYTHING WAS FINE AS IT WAS, PROVIDED SOME COUNTRIES EXPERIENCED "CHANGES OF ATTITUDE." LOPEZ PORTILLO WILL RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THE CHINESE DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING IN OCTOBER.

7. G.G. SAID THAT MEXICANS HAD IMPRESSION THAT THERE
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WAS GENERAL WEAKENING OF GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS, WITH MILITARY ALLIANCES SUCH AS NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT GAINING RELATIVE STRENGTH. MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT TRENDS WERE MIXED IN THIS AREA. DISCUSSION OF WEAKNESSES OF ORGANIZATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY LED TO QUESTION OF CURRENT SITUATION IN AFRICA, WITH G.G. EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OVER FRENCH ROLE, WHICH HE

CHARACTERIZED AS EFFORT TO SECURE NATURAL RESOURCES. HE ADDED THAT IDEA OF A REGIONAL MILITARY FORCE WAS VERY FRIGHTENING. MAYNES REPLIED THAT NO SUCH FORCE WAS LIKELY WITHOUT BLESSING OF OAU, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEMS WHICH SPARKED TALK OF POSSIBLE AFRICAN FORCE WOULD NOT GO AWAY. G.G. ASKED WHAT MAYNES CONSIDERED TO BE MAIN FEATURE OF SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH ON AFRICA. MAYNES SAID THAT SPEECH WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR POLICY WAS UNCHANGED DESPITE PRESS SPECULATION OVER SHABA II AND THAT WE WISHED TO WORK WITH AFRICAN STATES FOR AFRICAN SOLUTIONS. SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN AFRICA, MAYNES NOTED, ALTHOUGH US WAS NOT GOING TO ALLOW THIS CONCERN ALONE TO DRIVE OUR POLICY. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT CUBANS IN ANGOLA HAVE HARDLY BEEN HELPFUL IN PROMOTING NECESSARY NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN THAT COUNTRY AND THAT NEITHER SOVIETS NOR CUBANS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL ON NAMIBIA.

8. OVERVIEW MECHANISM: MAYNES NOTED WITH REGRET THAT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE HAD NOT GOTTEN OFF TO A VERY GOOD START, TO WHICH G.G. REPLIED THAT THIS WAS WHAT MEXICANS HAD EXPECTED IN VIEW OF FRAMEWORK SELECTED. HE RECALLED HIS PROPOSAL IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE THAT ECOSOC BE USED AS OVERVIEW BODY. MAYNES SAID THAT US COULD HAVE ACCEPTED THIS POSITION BUT G-77 INSISTED THAT ECOSOC THEN HAD TO BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, I.E., WHETHER IN ECOSOC OR IN AN
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AD HOC COMMITTEE, EVERYONE HAD TO PARTICIPATE. G.G. SAID THIS WAS PART OF BACKLASH AGAINST CIEC. HE AGREED SMALLER FORUM WAS NEEDED. MEXICANS, ACCORDING TO G.G., "HAVE LOST HOPE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE" AND HAVE SHIFTED THEIR SIGHTS TO 1980 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. HE SAID THAT MEXICANS HAD ESTABLISHED A PROJECT UNDER UNITAR AND THE THIRD WORLD CENTER ON "OBSTACLES TO THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER." STUDY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY J.A. LOZOYA AND AIMS AT CIRCULATION OF DRAFT IN 1979, DESCRIBING PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTING SOLUTIONS. MEXICANS SEE PAPER SERVING AS GUIDELINES FOR 1980 SPECIAL SESSION. UNITAR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND HAS ALREADY

BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE SWEDISH CENTER FOR FUTURE PROBLEMS. HE SUGGESTED THAT US SHOULD COORDINATE ITS INPUT WITH UNITAR. (COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMB. MEXICO'S VIEWS ON THIS PROJECT. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD DEVELOP CONTACT WITH LOZOYA TO ENSURE THAT OUR VIEWS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. END COMMENT.) MAYNES SAID THAT US HAD NOT YET LOST HOPE ON

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, BUT ADDED THAT IF SEPTEMBER MEETING DOES NOT GO WELL, WE MIGHT BE IN A POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OF MEXICO. HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT AT MAY MEETING OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE, TOP POLICY PEOPLE CAME FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY CAPITALS, BUT VERY FEW CAME FROM G-77. G.G. AGREED AND CONTINUED TO ARGUE THAT ECOSOC COULD SERVE AS FRAMEWORK FOR MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT MEXICANS GIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ONE MORE TRY, TO WHICH G.G. REPLIED MEXICANS WOULD OF COURSE MAKE EVERY EFFORT BUT HAD SCANT HOPES OF SUCCESS.

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9. CONVENTION ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS/CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNCs: G.G. CLAIMED THAT MEXICO HAD MADE, IN RESPONSE TO US PRESSURES, A MAJOR SHIFT ON THESE ISSUES. MEXICO WAS ORIGINALLY OPPOSED TO ANY AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS, BUT MEXICANS HAVE NOW ACCEPTED SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS, PROVIDED IT INCLUDES REFERENCE TO CODE OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD COME INTO EFFECT AT SAME TIME. HE NOTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT WAS PRESSING FOR DISCUSSIONS IN MEXICO CITY BETWEEN LEGAL EXPERTS WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO MEXICANS PROVIDED BOTH ISSUES, I.E., ILLICIT PAYMENTS CONVENTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT, WERE DISCUSSED SIMULTANEOUSLY. AS REGARDS BINDING CHARACTER OF CODE OF CONDUCT, G.G. SAID THIS PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED BY DROPPING ANY REFERENCE TO NATURE OF CODE, LEAVING ENFORCEMENT UP TO NATIONAL LEGAL PRACTICE, BUT HE ADDED THAT MEXICO COULD NOT AGREE THAT CODE WOULD HAVE ONLY RECOMMENDATORY STATUS. HE ASKED THAT US TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CONSIDERABLE SHIFT WHICH MEXICANS HAVE MADE ON THIS ISSUE IN RESPONSE TO US REQUEST.

MAYNES COMMENTED THAT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT MEXICO AND US HAD GOTTEN OFF ON WRONG FOOT ON THESE ISSUES DURING DEBATE ON CODE OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES. SENATOR PERCY, WHO FOLLOWED THIS ISSUE FOR OUR DELEGATION, IS CONVINCED THAT IF MEXICANS HAD NOT PRESSED FOR VOTE, WE COULD HAVE WORKED OUT ISSUES AND ARRIVED AT CODE ALL COULD ACCEPT. G.G. REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT FINAL NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH PERCY, WHO

MADE A NUMBER OF "CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS." BUT EVERY
TIME HE DID, THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE ARGUED
THAT SENATOR PERCY WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF. MEXICANS
DECIDED TO PRESS AHEAD. HE NOTED THAT CODE HAS AUTO-
MATIC FIVE-YEAR REVIEWING CLAUSE, AND US AND MEXICO
MIGHT BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON CODE TO SEE IF AGREEMENT
COULD NOW BE ACHIEVED ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. VANCE
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